

CROCKERY LAKE ASSOCIATION

July 2021 NEWSLETTER

CROCKERY LAKE WEBSITE: www.crockerylake.org

CROCKERY LAKE FACEBOOK: [www.facebook/crockerylake](https://www.facebook.com/crockerylake)



BOAT PARADE WINNERS

Thank you to everyone who participated! What fun to see families building memories on the lake! We'd love to have more participants. It would be great if you started planning now for next year!

1st place - Ice Cream Truck - Phil & Melissa Johnson



2nd Place - Noah's Ark - Randy & Karen Peltier



3rd Place - Captain America - Bob & MaryAnn Blauwkamp



FIREWORKS 2021

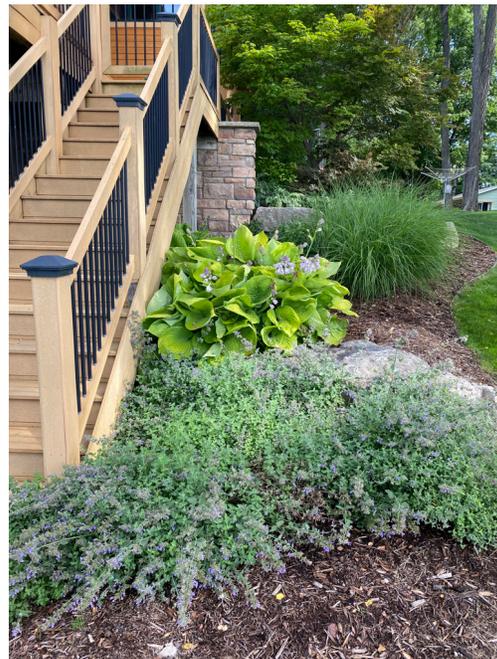


Lake residents, friends, and neighbors were treated to another wonderful fireworks display this year. This was totally funded by the donations from the residents of this lake. If you enjoyed the show on July 3 and would like to continue the tradition please consider donating to the 2022 Fireworks Fund. Donations can be made via our website at www.crockerylake.org or by sending a check to our treasurer

made out to Crockery Lake Association and send it to Greg Slater, Treasurer, 2500 Crockery Shores Road, Casnovia, MI 49318. We want to thank you in advance for your donations.

CROCKERY LAKE NORTH SHORE GARDEN TOUR 2021

A heartfelt thank you to all who participated in our 2021 Garden Tour to benefit the Fireworks Fund. Thanks goes out to the Blauwkamp's, Ludwick's, and Lane's for letting us tour their different gardens. It was a beautiful tour.





WELCOME OUR NEW NEIGHBORS

John and Kassi deGeneres and daughter made the Miller residence their home in April. John was even kind enough to fill a vacancy on our board at the annual meeting.

Clayton and Gretchen Schutter and son made the Horton residence their home about a month ago.

Casey and Jess Jones and son made the Mlnarik residence their home about a month ago,

We are so happy you are here and look forward to getting to know you.

WHY BECOME A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION?

Each year board members try to visit each lake resident to encourage you to join the association. It is similar to paying a Home Owners Association (HOA) fee. However, our “dues” are voluntary and not required. Dues are used to ensure the lake remains useable and healthy for the residents.

If the Crockery Lake Association cannot get the proper funding to support the lake’s health, then the fate of the lake will remain in the township’s hands. The board gives a voice to all *members* of the lake association.

The lake board does their best to listen and implement your ideas and concerns. As lake residents, we have a responsibility to treat the lake with respect and try to minimize the damage caused by OUR use of the lake. If we don't take this responsibility seriously, no one will.

**Why not leave the lake health in the hands of
the people who live on it?
The dues are just \$35 per year.**

What does the Crockery Lake Association Board do for you?

1 - MAINTAIN THE LAKE'S USABILITY THROUGH WEED TREATMENTS

Our lake has a substantial amount of weeds that if left untreated would make portions of the lake unusable.

Since the lake is only 108 acres, not treating the lake would severely limit boat traffic. Untreated "Eurasian Milfoil" will be cut and spread by boat motors. Within a couple of years, the lake would require more chemical treatment for the milfoil. Increased chemicals will also increase the cost to you. Because of the high phosphorous level in our lake, untreated weeds will accumulate in large amounts and sit on top of the weeds, creating an unsightly and smelly lake. The CLA only treats the lake with as small amount of chemical as needed. Options for treatment vary each year, along with the types of weeds and where they grow throughout the lake. The board works with Professional Lake Management to decide what type of treatment(s) are needed and when they should occur.

2 - ORGANIZE THE YEARLY FIREWORKS SHOW

The fireworks show is 100% funded by the lake residents, friends and family.

Obtaining permits for the show and boat parade, donation collection, contract negotiation, coordination with the fire department and owners of the firework site, and the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department are just a few of the tasks required to put the show on every year. The Board member in charge of the fireworks spends a substantial amount of time on the day of the event dealing with problems and questions from the various involved parties.

3 - INFORM RESIDENTS ABOUT IMPORTANT ISSUES IMPACTING THE LAKE

Because of our lake's continued membership of the Michigan Lake & Stream Assn., our lake is light years ahead of many other lakes in the state.

Michigan Lake & Stream is a nonprofit organization which keeps lake associations up-to-date on a huge variety of issues—lake studies, grants, pending legislation, monitoring programs, education, boating laws and regulations. CLA members attend regional and annual meetings where this valuable information is obtained (they are not reimbursed for their attendance at these meetings, they attend to help with the well-being of the lake). As an active member of ML&SA, we obtain additional help and immediate help with any lake problems. Additional perks to us being a member include: the best ways to handle weed treatments; a heads up on any legislation pending in Lansing that may affect our lake, being the first in line for lake monitoring studies, and working relationship with other lake associations. We also coordinate with many governmental entities—The Drain Commission, The Road Commission, The Parks Commission, and Chester Township on lake problems.

4 - PROTECT THE LAKE THROUGH ACTIVE TOWNSHIP ORDINANCES

We were the first lake association in the state to implement a total fertilizer ban around the lake, other lakes request our ordinance to implement to their own.

Education from ML&SA programs, including phosphorous loading from fertilizers and water runoff are the #1 reason for algae problems. The newspapers are loaded with articles on lakes in our area with chronic algae problems which keep residents from swimming and boating in the lakes. Because of CLA actions, a smaller amount of fertilizer is now entering our lake and helping to ward off algae blooms. Residents should take credit for this also, because without your cooperation, this ordinance would not be as successful as it is!

The second ordinance is the “Dock/Funneling” ordinance. “Funneling” is when there is one undeveloped lot on the lake and homes built in the vicinity of the lot, but not on the lake, are given lake access on their deed to own a percentage of the lot. Without specific ordinances against this, these undeveloped lots have the potential of turning into a small marina—a dock holding an unlimited number of boats from all the residents given lake access. The ordinance also limits the number of docks per household to one, and licensed boats to three. An example of funneling is Lake Bella Vista. Hundreds of homes have lake access. The lake has problems with heavy boat traffic. By maintaining the Sheriff’s PWC, they get extra hours of patrol between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Residents can only operate their boats on an every-other-day basis and pay the salary of the deputy sheriff.

Our lake ordinances appear in a brochure entitled “Township Powers” that is available for purchase through Michigan Lake & Stream Assn. Overuse of

the lake is dangerous and counterproductive to lake quality and residents' safety.

5 - SUPPLY INFORMATIVE NEWSLETTERS

The newsletters are an important source of information and allows residents to stay connected as a lake family. These are available digitally via email or from our website and Facebook page. Printed copies are available by request. Careful research is done before any article is placed in the newsletters. Up-coming meetings and events, planned weed treatments, lake health results, new neighbors, and general information that lake residents would want to know about, are just some of the topics provided in the newsletter.

We all have the same goal - to enjoy our beautiful little lake!

WAKE BOATS submitted by Susan McClure

Wake boats are designed to create WAKES! They are not ordinary speed boats. The inboard motor is in the back of or underneath the boat. The motor placement means that users are not apt to be injured by propellers. Ballast tanks or bags are placed slightly back of the boat's midsection. The ballast can weigh up to 1750 pounds. A longer propeller shaft may be added to create even more wake. Boat motor noise may be a problem. The legal limit is less than 90 decibels at three feet when idling. A boat motor is to be no more than 75 decibels when measured from shore.

HARM FROM WAKE BOATS

The greater wake affects everything along the shore. Wildlife habitat lies in the shallow water and along the shoreline and is destroyed. Sand is eroded. Spawning beds are destroyed. Wakes undermine sea walls from above and below.

The greater wake creates turbulence in the deeper water. Phosphorus that has settled in the bottom is pulled up and redistributed as fertilizer. The resulting algae growth clouds the water. The sediment that is churned up washes in to smother spawning beds. The sediment also suffocates water plants that birds and fish eat.

Wake boat owners are directly liable for damage to property. Tax payers and lake associations pay for ecological damage.

Wake boats should not be used in shallow water, sandy areas, wetlands, and along lake front residences. In deep water Wake boats should stay 300 feet from shore.

To avoid or lessen disturbance Wake boats can:

- ~ STAY AWAY FROM THE SHORELINE
- ~ REDUCE SPEED WITHIN 300 FEET OF THE SHORELINE
- ~ AVOID TURNING IN CIRCLES
- ~ ELIMINATE LONG SHAFTS AND BALLAST

Source: "Wakeboarding in Michigan: Impacts and Best Practices".

Additional Wake Boat information from PLM that can reduce the potential for adverse effects to our lake:

~ Waves decrease in size the longer they travel. Therefore, PLM recommends operation of wake boats at least 500 ft from shore whenever possible.

~ Studies conducted on different wake boat models suggest that thrust (depending on the trim angle) will typically reach a depth of approximately 12 feet. Therefore PLM recommends that wake boats be operated in depths of greater than 12 feet whenever possible.

BOATING SAFETY REVIEW

There are rules and regulations for boating that are for ALL great lakes and inland lakes. A complete guide to these rules is located on the web at <https://assets.kalkomey.com/boater/pdfs/handbook/michigan-handbook-entire.pdf>

Some unlawful and dangerous operations-

Reckless Operation of vessel or reckless manipulation of water skis, a surfboard, or similar device is defined as operation which disregard the safety or rights of others or endangers the person or property of others. Examples are:

- Weaving your vessel through congested waterway traffic
- Intentionally setting up a situation where you must swerve at the last possible moment in order to avoid collision
- Jumping the wake of another vessel unnecessarily close to the other vessel or when visibility around the other vessel is restricted
- Chasing, harassing, or disturbing wildlife with your vessel
- Causing damage from the wave of your vessel

Failure to Regulate Speed is operating a vessel at speeds that may cause danger to life or property of any other person or at speeds that will not permit you to bring your vessel to a safe stop. It is illegal to operate a vessel:

- In excess of 55 MPH unless you are at least one mile offshore on the Great Lakes or Lake St. Clair
- At greater than “slow, no wake speed” when a person is in the bow of a vessel without proper seating
- Faster than is reasonable and prudent under weather conditions, vessel traffic, etc)

Improper distance is not maintaining a proper distance while operating a vessel or towing a person. To maintain a proper distance when you are operating at greater than “slow, no wake speed” the vessel or persons being towed must not be within 100 feet of:

- A shoreline if operating in water less than three feet deep
- Any moored or anchored vessel

- A dock or raft
- Any marked swimming area or person in the water

Improper Distance for PWC (personal water craft) means that, if operating at greater than “slow, no wake speed,” a PWC also must:

- Stay at least 200 feet from any Great Lakes shoreline
- Not cross within 150 feet behind another vessel other than another personal watercraft (PWC)

Improper Direction is defined as the failure to operate in a counterclockwise direction except in areas marked by well-defined channels or rivers.

ALGAE BLOOM

Many lakes throughout Michigan are experiencing Algal Blooms more than ever. Even Lake Michigan has algae this year. Here is a link to a WOODtv-8 article by Meteorologist Ellen Bacca about the Algal Bloom in Lake Michigan. https://www.woodtv.com/weather/ask-ellen/ask-ellen-is-the-algae-im-seeing-toxic/?fbclid=IwAR3sOnxEz5qFNCIAJUWeJQBbZvRVw-Fu3sYVLg6t9SvPXMC_YmEbSC-Y0dLQ

And from the state of Michigan more information can be accessed: https://www.michigan.gov/egle/0,9429,7-135-3313_3681_3686_3728-383630--,00.html

DISCOUNTED SEPTIC PUMPING SERVICES

Your family’s health and the lake’s water quality depends on this. By pumping regularly, you will avoid costly repairs to your system. This is a very important way in which all residents can help preserve the health of Crockery Lake. **Kerkstra’s Septic** | 616-209-4472 continues to offer discounted rates to Crockery Lake residents.

COONTAIL COMING IN SOON After the Milfoil has been chemically treated, another weed, COONTAIL, will take its place. Coontail looks

similar to Milfoil, but does not spread the same way. Feel free to pull out as much Coontail as you can stand!!

MORE FUN--EELGRASS SEASON IS FAST APPROACHING

Per Professional Lake Management, removal of eelgrass by chemical control is generally not recommended (1) because of oxygen depletion in the water, (2) the disruption of fish habitat, and (3) the chemical treatment will only be effective for 2 weeks—then the eelgrass quickly grows back.

Luckily, eelgrass has shallow roots and it is easy to pull out. The earlier you pull it out, the less work it will be for you. Be a good lake neighbor--like you would with milfoil, be sure to remove all fragments as they may reroot in another spot.

Chuck Lane has found by reducing the muck, he has reduced the amount of eelgrass growing in his swim area. He buys muck pellets from Professional Lake Management. A \$100 bucket will cover an area approximately 50' x 50'. Apply the pellets once a month. MD Pellets. <https://plmcorp.net>. They will make arrangements to drop off the pellets at your house so you avoid shipping costs.

NEXT Board Meeting Date:

August 18 - 7:00pm -

Betsy Ludwick

2470 Crockery Shores Road, Casnovia, MI 49318

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President / Betsy Ludwick

Position Expires: 4/30/24

616.723.5704 / betsylud@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor, Website & Facebook Administrator

Vice President / Pat Wolters

Position Expires: 4/30/23

616.887.8707 / patwolters@aol.com

Represents: 2833 - 2871 Crockery Shores, Kaycee Lane, Crockery Woods

Treasurer / Greg Slater

Position Expires: 4/30/22

616.638.6930 / greg.gsesllc@outlook.com

Representing: 2221 Van Dyke St - 2391 Van Dyke St

Secretary / Susan McClure

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616.899.5480 / smcclure527@comcast.net

Represents: 2519 - 2681 Van Dyke

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Representing: 2332 - 2550 Crockery Shores Road, 24th Ave, Hoover

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616,887,4203 home / versilecbe@yahoo.com

Representing: 2705 Van Dyke St - 2835 Van Dyke

John deGeneres

Position expires: 4/30/24

225.287.1420 / johnkassidegen@gmail.com

Representing: 2563 Crockery Shores Road - 2798 Crockery Shores Road

FACEBOOK/WEBSITE ADMINISTRATORS

Katie Spangler and Betsy Ludwick

spanglerlane@gmail.com & betsylud@gmail.com

Your ASSOCIATION DUES play a HUGE part in effectively running the CLA program, which promotes education on lake environmental studies, social get togethers, and community awareness programs as well. Many people who receive the CLA newsletter find helpful information and tips on helping our lake survive or for that matter helping each other in one way or the other. We need ALL readers to become members of CLA so we can become more united in our effort to promote a healthy neighborhood, community, and most importantly our beautiful Crockery Lake. Come on folks—please do your part and join the Crockery Lake Association today—it's such a small price to provide a benefit to one and all!

Association Dues: \$35 per household

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Advertising in this newsletter is **FREE** to Crockery Lake Members.

Advertising for business is \$25/year.

Inclusion of any advertisement in the CLA Newsletter does not equate to an endorsement by the Crockery Lake Association.



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CROCKERY LAKE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

YEARLY DUES: \$35 paid by _____ Date _____

FIREWORKS DONATION: \$_____ CANDLES _____ at \$1.25 each

Crockery Lake Association is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Dues are not tax deductible. However, firework donations are tax deductible.

Please make your check to: **CROCKERY LAKE ASSOCIATION**

Send to: **Greg Slater, 2500 Crockery Shores Road, Casnovia, MI 49318**

_____ ***RETAIN A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS*** _____

DUES PAID \$_____ DATE _____

CANDLES _____ X \$1.25 = _____

FIREWORKS DONATION \$_____

CHECK NUMBER _____